



# GRAYSON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWS

November 2018

WWW.GRAYSONCOUNTYARC.ORG

Vol. 24, No. 11

**Next General Meeting Date Scheduled for Tuesday January 15, 2019 (No December General Meeting)**  
**Grayson County Courthouse**  
**Sherman Texas @ 7:00PM**

## The President's QSO

Hi all,

We had a great meeting in November. First things first. The 2019 officers were chosen. Elected were as follows:

**For President - Andrew - KG5SKM**

**For Secretary - Doug - KG5QPI**

**For Vice-President - Roy - AF5VA**

**For Treasurer - James - KW5CW**

Congrats to all!!

Lynda - KF5JUO talked about how she is starting a woman's orientated group within the GCARC to encourage more women to get involved with amateur radio. Lynda, who holds an Amateur Extra Class license, is highly motivated and also runs the YL Net on 80 meters. In the future she will present a yearly report at each November meeting, now designated as 'YL Month' for the GCARC.

James - KW5CW, along with Lee - N5SLY updated the club on the Field Day results, as reported in the ARRL-QST article in the December issue. The club is actively looking for a new Field Day site for 2019 and an upcoming report and a new site chosen may be completed as soon as the January meeting, to be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Stay tuned for the changes. The summer field day will be held on June 22nd and 23rd, in 2019.

With just one month to go, the club will hold its annual Christmas dinner on December 18th starting at 6:30 PM at the Grayson County Courthouse 2nd floor assembly room. A turkey was donated to the club by Alberton's in Denison. If you want to bring something, please let me know. You can email me at [president@k5gcc.org](mailto:president@k5gcc.org). Everyone is encouraged to bring one of their favorite dishes to share with all. There will be no monthly meeting in December.

The club voted unanimously to participate in the Winter Field Day event that happens on January 26 - 27, 2019. Details for the event are forthcoming. After the November meeting, I helped program DMR radios and explained some of the screenshots found when programming the ANYTONE radio. Programming DMR radios is quite a bit different when compared to standard VHF/UHF equipment for standard FM repeaters, and I think the presentation may have helped a little bit.

This is my final meeting as being president of the club. It has been a good year. We made some big changes, but I think these big changes are in the best interests of the club. I will still be active in the club next year but I will still be taking classes at school, and that will be my main focus for the rest of the school year in 2019. Thanks for letting me be your president!

Trevor Reed - GCARC President [president@k5gcc.org](mailto:president@k5gcc.org)

## Officers

President: Trevor Reed - KG5BFI  
Vice President  
&QSL manager: Lee Sly - N5SLY  
Secretary: Jim McGlynn - K5QOI  
Treasurer: Marvin Schiavone - KG5GMA  
Event Coordinator: Andrew Bentley - KG5SKM  
Trustee: Rick Simmons – K5ECX

## Meetings

When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
Time: 7:00pm (1900 hours)  
Location: Grayson County Courthouse  
100 W. Houston Street  
Sherman, TX 75090  
GPS: 33.38.18N, 96.36.59W

## Mailing Address

Grayson County Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 642  
Sherman, Texas 75091

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual: \$20.00/yr  
Family: \$30.00/yr  
Associate (non-Ham) \$15.00/yr

## Newsletter

Published: Monthly via e-mail  
Editor: James Frank – KW5CW  
To submit news or Send E-mail to  
e-mail changes: [KW5CW@arrl.net](mailto:KW5CW@arrl.net)  
Submission  
Deadline:

## WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Address: [www.graysoncountycastle.org](http://www.graysoncountycastle.org)  
Webmaster: James Frank - KW5CW  
Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC](https://www.facebook.com/groups/K5GCC)

**8PM on first SATURDAY following each monthly meeting (published by following Monday)**

**Memberships are from January 1-December 31**

## Dues and Donations

Membership dues are payable upon joining and renew on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Donations to support the club are always welcome. Dues and donations may be paid by cash or check at any monthly GCARC meeting and by mail, or by using a credit or debit card online at the GCARC website.

## GCARC, ARES, and SKYWARN Patches

GCARC club patches are available and may be purchased at each club meeting; cost is \$5.00 each. These are round patches with the club logo, and are great for wearing on vests and other non-club clothing, placing on equipment bags, go-kits, etc.

ARES and SKYWARN patches may also be purchased at each club meeting; cost is \$4.00 each. If you choose to wear patches on your club shirt or jacket, we recommend ARES members place the ARES patch first on the right shoulder and any other patch (SKYWARN, RACES, CERT, etc.) should go below it. Since some members have tactical shirts with pen pockets on the left sleeve we do not recommend placing any patches on that side.

## Club Clothing Orders

Several times each year, members have the opportunity to purchase club-related clothing (shirts, caps, jackets, etc.). These items have the GCARC logo and the member's name and callsign embroidered on them. An order form with instructions will be included in the newsletter each time orders are being taken.

*"It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community."*

From the GCARC Constitution

## **GCARC MEETING MINUTES 11-20-2018**

By Jim McGlynn – K5QOI

Meeting started @ 7:04 pm

Treasurers report \$1478.02 in bank and 42 members

Old Business - Field Day Discussion

Look for new location

Greater participation

Winter Field Day Jan 26-27 2019 voted to participate

Lynda Tuma KF5JUO to get a list of all members and to contact ladies for more participation

New Officers elected for 2019

President Andrew KG5SKM

Vice President Roy AF5VA

Secretary Doug KG5QPI

Treasurer James KW5CW

Christmas Dinner to be held at next Meeting - starts @6:30pm at the Grayson County Courthouse

Pot Luck dinner - Club Supplies Meat

Toys for Tots participation - an unwrapped toy from members

# 2018 Treasurer Report – November 2018

by Marvin Schiavone – KG5GMA

Bank Balance as of 10.31.2018 1,478.02

Operating Fund Beginning Bal 1,300.37

Deposits	Dues	Checks	
		Cash	
Kraemar		Online	20.00
		Clothes	
		Patches	
	Amazon	Smile	
Less expenses		online fee	0.88

Operating Fund Balance 1,300.37

\*\* Members YTD 42

Available Equipment Funds 177.65

Donation

Less expenditures

Equipment Fund Balance 177.65

Ending Bank Balance  
as of November 19,2018 1,478.02

OPERATING BUDGET	
Post Office Box(Due FEB)	70.00
Checks	
Website	
<i>Special Events Deposit</i>	
Perrin	50.00
Eisenhower(Perrin)	50.00
RR Bridge War	50.00
<i>Food for Special Events</i>	
<i>Donations</i>	
Memorials	
<i>Total</i>	220.00

EQUIPMENT NEEDS	
Tower Bracket	151.89
Amount Budgeted	0

VP & QSL Managers Message

by Lee - N5SLY

Look what the YL's did on that rainy Eisenhower Event weekend!!

## YL USS Batfish Operation



The [USS Batfish](#) is a Balao-class submarine. The Batfish is named for the fish that is found off the coast of Peru. During WW2, the Batfish sunk three Japanese Navy submarines in a 76-hour timeframe. As a tribute to the 52 submarines and 3,505 US sailors that were lost during the war, Albert Kelly and a group of submarine veterans worked to bring the Batfish to the [Muskogee War Memorial Park, at the port of Muskogee, OK](#) in the early 1970's.

On October 12th through the 14th of 2018, some of the YLs (Young Ladies) from Kansas, Texas, and Oklahoma were guests of the USS Batfish Radio Club and participated in honoring the memory of 75th anniversary of the lost 52 submarines event. Four of the YLs were from the South Canadian Amateur Radio Society (SCARS).





USS BATFISH – DRYDOCKED – That's how you get a sub to dock in Oklahoma!



GCARC member – Lynda Tuma – KF5JUO (pictured center) taking notes





The members of the USS Batfish and USS Oklahoma Amateur Radio Club are working to remember and commemorate each of the United States Navy Submarines that were lost during the Second World War on the 75th Anniversary of their loss.

During this activation, there were two submarines that were honored. The [USS Wahoo](#) was sunk in October 1943 with 80 men on board. The [USS Dorado](#) was also sunk in October 1943 and had 77 men on board. The YLs made a total of more than 350 contacts during the 3-day event. QSL information is [available on the WW2SUB club website](#).

They called CQ on board the Batfish from one of the three radios systems they had on board. They used the WW2SUB club gear that is located in the original radio room. And, with the assistance of their USS Batfish Club Host Wade Harris KF5IF, built temporary stations in the crew's mess and in the operation area. They hung wire antennas and deployed the club's portable tower in the rain. Many of the YLs slept overnight in the original crew quarters on the ship. They even got to experience a power outage on the sub. Propagation was short over the weekend, so many members of SCARS were able to make a contact!

Everyone was able to get some radio time over the three-day event. It was the first time on HF for some of the YLs. After they set up antennas, radios, setup satellite systems, and mentored each other, they explored the nooks and crannies of the entire submarine.

The group wishes to thank USS Batfish Club host Wade Harris KF5IF and the Muskogee War Memorial Museum for hosting the event. On the way out the door, the YLs said: "let's do this again next year". So, October 5-6, 2019 is on the calendar and is coming soon.

Peter Khor AG5DB was able to capture a few minutes of the YL's working the radio, as heard in Norman, OK.

YLs in attendance on the October 13th, 2018 weekend were:

Leah Ohse W3LEO  
Patricia Liesenfeld W5UBI  
Barbara Schlueter KD0WAU  
Eva Knapple N5EVA  
Vonnie Merritt KE5RKC  
Beth Pearce KC5RWW  
Donna Wohler N5DEE  
Lynda Tuma KF5JUO  
Virginia Smith NV5F  
Mary Calkins AE6Q  
Judi Voeller N5KUO  
Annie Zhi KG5VGA  
Christina Liu KG5VGB  
Michelle Carey W5MQC



# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

## 2018 Skywarn Recognition Day information

by Wade Graves, KF5AUD  
Grayson County ARES EC

Hello everyone,

**Skywarn recognition day** is this Saturday, December 1, 2018. The ham radio team at the National Weather Service Office in Fort Worth will be operating as WX5FWD/W5T between 0000z -- 2400z. (Friday evening, November 30th 18:00 (6PM) CST until Saturday December 1st 18:00 (6PM) CST.) Operating bands will be 80 Meters, 40 Meters, 20 Meters, 15 Meters, 10 Meters, 6 meters, 2 meters, and 440 Mhz. Operating modes will include SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK, FM, EchoLink, and IRLP.

Please monitor the W5COP repeater 147.280 locally and the WB5U 145.49 repeater in Rosston (ctcss is 85.4) for 2 meter contacts. They will be switching between all primary Skywarn repeaters in the 46 county NWSFWD service area via direct communication, EchoLink, or IRLP. As in years past, they will probably use Echolink to connect to the W5COP repeater.

SKYWARN volunteers may visit the Fort Worth Weather Forecast Office on Saturday December 1st. Visitors must RSVP before Friday, November 30th via [wx5fwd.org/RSVP](http://wx5fwd.org/RSVP), or send email to [SRD@wx5fwd.org](mailto:SRD@wx5fwd.org). They will accommodate three groups of visitors on an hourly schedule, 15 to 20 people at a time. The two groups from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM will be provided a light lunch. Parking and building resources are limited. Please RSVP including your name, email address, the hour you expect to visit starting at 11:30 AM, call sign (not required), and county. More details will be provided to visitors via email.

That's all the information I have for you. Hope you can connect with the Skywarn Radio Desk team sometime this weekend.

73

Wade

Wade Graves, KF5AUD  
Grayson County ARES EC

## **Time to Winterize**

by Wade Graves – KF5AUD  
Grayson County ARES EC

With colder temperatures arriving we need to take a few minutes to prepare for the colder temperatures to come in December-February. Now is a good time to check the antifreeze in your car, sweep your chimney if you have a wood burning fireplace, double check your pipe insulation on any pipes exposed to the elements or on an outside wall. Also, please don't forget the four P's of winter weather preparedness -- Pipes, Pets, Plants, and People. Make sure you cover your hose bibs and disconnect any attached water hoses. If you have outside pets, make sure they have a nice warm place to stay (some hay in a dog house for instance) and have extra rations of pet food on hand in case an ice storm interrupts the normal flow of supplies. If you have plants that you want to save, consider bringing them indoors or into a greenhouse. Finally, make sure you get your winter go kits ready by switching out your summer light weight clothes for winter clothes. Always keep an extra blanket in your vehicle when you travel. If you are planning to use a space heater, make sure you have it on a level surface and keep it at least 3 feet away from paper, clothes, beds, curtains, rugs, etc. If you have an elderly neighbors, check on them and see if they need any help winterizing their homes. Make sure you have food and water supplies laid in so you don't have to get out in an ice storm.

Here are some handy ways to report electric outages. You might want to consider bookmarking them in both your computer and your smart phone.

The Oncor electric outage reporting page is:

<https://oncor.ifactornotifi.com/ui/outage-reporting>

The Grayson-Collin electric outage reporting page is:

<http://www.grayson-collin.coop/report-outage>

Finally, make sure you keep your radio batteries and cell phones fully charged. If we prepare now, it will be a little easier to respond should the need arise.

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> VP & QSL Managers Message**

By Lee – N5SLY

My wife and I had a great time on our cruise to New England and Canada this last month. Kathy had never been to any of the places we visited so this was very special for her. We also stumbled across the Halifax Amateur Radio Club, VA1MMA, while visiting the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and I thought I would share with you my visit with them. The following was copied from their QRZ page...



The Wireless Room within the Age of Steam exhibit at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic has been created by the museum in partnership with the Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC). The room provides a visual demonstration of how ships communicated with one another and with shore stations after the advent of radio communications. Prior to the invention of radio, the primary method of communications at sea was by means of signaling flags or lamps but they were only effective over short distances, i.e. line of sight.

Once radio became available, ships were not only able to communicate over long distances and during inclement weather, but were also able to use radio direction finding to accurately determine their position. The wide use of radio communications after 1900 led to a dramatic decline in the loss of ships and crew. Thus the radio room became a central part of operating a ship. The primary mode of communications was Morse code which employs a series of short signals, or dots, and long signals, or dashes. Each letter, number and punctuation sign has its own unique combination of dots and dashes. A text message was then sent as a properly sequenced set of dots and dashes to the distant radio operator. Radio operators required great skill to send and receive messages at speeds of 30 words per minute or more.

Morse code was the primary mode of radio communications at sea throughout the 20th century and until satellite communications became available. Amateur radio operators throughout the world continue to maintain their communications skills at a very high level, including the use of Morse code as well as various voice and digital modes. Their skills in conducting clear and varied modes of communications is a cornerstone of the hobby of amateur radio and is an invaluable skill during any emergency situation, especially those natural or manmade disasters when normal commercial communications fail. Morse code remains a very reliable and robust mode of communications.



The Wireless Room is staffed several days a month, by volunteers of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club, who conduct live demonstrations of Morse code for visitors. Those who wish may test their own skills by sending their name in Morse code to the volunteer on duty. All who successfully complete the test will receive a handsome certificate that commemorates their achievement. The equipment on display in the wireless room consists of a vintage 1944 Marconi Model CM11 receiver and transmitter from a World War II Canadian Naval Vessel. This radio has been completely restored by Fred Archibald (VE1FA), a member of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club, and is fully operational. There is also a modern ICOM Amateur Radio Station that is also active using the Amateur radio call sign VA1MMA. This station is capable of communicating worldwide on many frequency bands and many different modes. It uses only a modest antenna mounted on the roof of the museum and the ionosphere to enable communications over great distances, using shortwave frequencies. The Wireless Room is a new display for the museum this year, and it attracts visitors of virtually all ages. Drop by the Wireless Room to view the display, and chat with the HARC volunteers to experiment with Morse code and obtain your souvenir certificate!

I was invited to sign their ham radio operator visitors log and they also showed me this log entry...check out the 3<sup>rd</sup> entry into the log...

June 27/16

VE1FA

Description	Page
Mike Keeter, US Navy ETZ RCKESTER AOL.COM (Los Angeles)	WA6IY9
Squadier - General & Mr. Brian Cameron (info) Kingston Ontario 27 June 2016	
Rose (Morse) Short Everett, WA July 11, 2016 I am the great grandniece of Samuel F.B. Morse	
John Zedd Atlanta, GA, USA	NZ4G
Frank Chih Cheng Fan TAIWAN	R.O.C Army
Anderson, London AOC "G102A"	Iron Crest
FRED DELIE GREEN BAY, WI	WB9SJT
Mary Delie Green Bay WI	KA9LLW
STEPHEN HAWES BERKELEY CA	WB6UZX
<del>W1W HARTLIN Aug 22 Ted Jean</del> Halfmoon NY	WA2ZAS
James H Chin New York City	WA2KVY
HANS LEANDER (ex GÖRANSSON) CLEVELAND, US (ex Sweden)	SM3CYM

Blueline

Another very interesting piece of history was the great explosion that happened in Halifax in 1917. It was the largest man made explosion ever created until the atomic bomb. This man warned the world of the impending disaster via Morse code...

**"Hold up the train.  
Munitions ship on fire and making for Pier 6  
... Goodbye boys."**

Vincent Coleman, Railway Dispatcher

**Vincent Coleman**  
Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, 2011, N-498

Railway telegraph key similar to that used by Vincent Coleman  
Courtesy Halifax Southwestern Railway Museum

Manipulateur télégraphique semblable à celui qu'utilisa Vincent Coleman  
Avec l'amable autorisation du Halifax Southwestern Railway Museum

**V**incent Coleman worked at the station in the Richmond rail yards, only a few hundred feet from Pier 6 where *Mont Blanc* drifted ashore in flames. Warned of her explosive cargo, he returned to his telegraph key to stop incoming trains. He was killed by the explosion but his message was heard by every station from Halifax to Truro, alerting the Canadian Government Railway to the imminent disaster. The railway was able to respond very quickly sending six relief trains to Halifax the day of the explosion with medical help and fire fighters from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

**V**incent Coleman travaillait à la gare ferroviaire de Richmond, à quelques centaines de pieds seulement du quai no 6 vers lequel dérivait le *Mont Blanc* en flammes. Informé sur la cargaison explosive du navire, il retourna à son manipulateur télégraphique et envoya un message pour faire stopper les trains en route vers Halifax. Il périt dans l'explosion, mais toutes les gares ferroviaires depuis Halifax jusqu'à Truro reçurent son message qui alertait les Chemins de fer nationaux du Canada du désastre imminent. Ces derniers purent réagir très rapidement et, le jour même de l'explosion, ils envoyèrent à Halifax six trains de secours avec du personnel médical et des pompiers de la Nouvelle-Écosse et du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Vincent Coleman's workplace: Ground Zero of the Halifax Explosion

Lieu de travail de Vincent Coleman : Point zéro de l'explosion d'Halifax

Coleman travaillait à la gare ferroviaire située dans la cour

Visiting this club got me thinking about our club's relationship with the Perrin Field Museum and how we may be able to add something to their exhibits. What was the role of radios in aviation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century? Does anyone have any expertise in this area? How can our club contribute to the museum? Is this something our members would be interested in looking into? If so, we may be able to partner with the museum and have our own "club house".

Again, my wife and I had a great time on our trip. The only problem is no one cooks our meals or cleans up after us any more now that we are home. Oh well...it's still good to be home again.

Looking forward to more fun on the radio in the coming months.

Have fun doing what you enjoy in the hobby.

# GCARC 2018 Field Day report

By James – KW5CW

Yes, it was already almost 6 months ago, but the standings of the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Field Day are now published in the December issue of QST. Our listing can be found on page 77, left column near the bottom of the page.

Reading reports such as this may be a bit confusing, so I'll explain the results as published in QST right here.

The listing reads: 260 2 15 1766 NTX

First it is important to note that the club ran Class 3A this year.

3A stands for 3 transmitters, running 150 watts or less, running on a generator.

The club received credit for making 260 QSO's. The number 2 stands for under 150W of power.

15 stands for the number of people who participated. 1766 is the final point total. We operated in NTX.

If you think that this point total was not that great, you would be right. We were placed in 219<sup>th</sup> place out of 350 that entered in Class 3A. So what does this mean? Actually absolutely nothing unless we may want to be on top of the standings in the future. For Field Day, there are no certificates or plaques that we can earn for participating, but it would be good PR for the club if we were to do better and maybe even end up on top in 1<sup>st</sup> place.

There may be a plan to do it if we plan for it in the future. Since Field day occurs each June, we would have 6 more months to actually plan on what we would like to do for the upcoming event. Or maybe just 2 months or less since the club has voted to participate in Winter Field Day 2019 in January.

One thing may be is to plan to run another class instead of 3A. This class is the most popular class so therefore bears the most competition. There were 218 stations running 3A that did better than the GCARC this year.

We may want to run 3A Battery – which means we would only be running a maximum of 5 watts of output power using a battery source instead of a generator, as there were only 9 stations running that class in 2018. That may sound challenging as for whatever the reason may be, as some commercial stations elect to put up very fancy antennas and use lots of power. They may not be running battery, but they may be making life difficult for others running emergency power. Actually, that is exactly the opposite of what Field Day stands for. It is the one time each year that we as amateurs can show our skills running emergency power simulating emergency conditions. And yes, that may mean that maybe we should be putting up tents, and staying away from air conditioning in commercial buildings.



Personally, I've grown to dislike our present field day location, and the club has elected to look for a possible new location for 2019. It's something to think about, and the new officers would like to hear from any member that has a good idea as far as a new Field Day location for 2019.

There are other operational classes that are even better if we were to get more people to participate in Field Day.

I don't mean just showing up, but I mean running a transmitter and making contacts.

If we were to have run Class 4A as an example, which means that we would have just had one more transmitter running at the same time during the event, we would have ended up in 22<sup>nd</sup> place out of 138 entries. But that would mean finding more space for an additional antenna, and our present location just doesn't make that a possibility.

Other classes to choose from are as follows:

Class 5A – we would have been in 10<sup>th</sup> place out of 78 participants in this class.

Class 5A Battery – We would have been in 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 3 stations that would have participated. Maybe 5A Battery is out of our league, as we surely wouldn't want to leave our comfortable 3A class for 5A Battery to end up in last place.

Only 2 stations participated this year in 5A Battery. We could have been the third. The list goes on, but hopefully you can understand what I'm getting at. It may be beneficial to plan next year and run a different class, other than 3A. I think it would be safe to say that the club never looked at field day from any operating perspective to be listed higher in the rankings in QST. After all, it's just a listing in QST. But amongst ourselves, we can prove that we have the capability to be the best in our class.

Who knows, if people in the club like to start competing in events such as contests for example, then we can really start to have fun as ham radio OPERATORS. Or do we consider most of us just COUCH POTATOES or event goers.

Am I rattling anyone with my comments? I hope so because I would love to see more participation in the club. For starters, more members can participate and operate a radio during the events. It doesn't have to be CW, or Digital, but maybe someone that likes to run SSB. So let's just think about what we may want to do next year.

73's to ALL, and I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

James – KW5CW

GCARC Newsletter Editor

## **CW Corner**

by James – KW5CW

KW5CW, that's me, once again as I finally have decided to get a 'CW Corner' article published as I have in the past. Except, I am cheating a little, as my friend from Manhattan, Kansas, Kurt Zoglmann – AD0WE has written yet another article that he approved to appear in our newsletter. So I once again get to slack a little. Thank you so much Kurt for your contribution. The following article is just an excerpt of Kurt's QRZ.com webpage, and I encourage all who read this article to go to Kurt's QRZ page at the following URL: <https://www.qrz.com/db/AD0WE> and also sign his Weblog. Then he would know that you stopped by. His QRZ.com page is amazing. His success in amateur radio shines through and through. Because of Kurt, I have elected to teach another CW class in 2019 if the membership desires such a class. Because of Kurt's success in learning CW, I will now teach the Farnsworth method instead of Koch as I have in previous classes. If not many are interested, maybe it would be best to teach a one-on-one type class to anyone who wants to better excel in CW. No need to use the courthouse in that case. When this newsletter is finally published on the website, all URL links will work. Ask your friends if they want to attend the class. You DO NOT have to be a member of the GCARC to attend classes.

The following is the unedited version of Kurt's writing...

### **Learning Morse Code**

by Kurt Zoglmann – AD0WE

Have you thought about getting started learning Morse code on your own? It is not hard. However, it takes ample practice and a willingness to take the first step.

I did not have anyone to mentor me initially. But through a bit of research, I discovered an excellent book -- [The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy](#) by William Pierpont (N0HFF). It is a free book available for download as a PDF. I highly recommend it. It is filled with history and practical advice. And it is a fun read!

In his book, I discovered the importance of leveraging the unconscious mind to do the heavy lifting of copying Morse code. And I learned it takes significantly more time to learn to copy than to send Morse code.

Many people start by learning the letters as a sequence of dits and dahs. As they copy Morse code, they count the dits and dahs that make up each letter. With this approach, people will start at 5wpm and slowly increase their speed until they reach 10 to 13wpm. The problem is that they are unable to go any faster despite ample practice or even with heroic effort. Sometimes this ceiling can persist for

years! The problem with this approach is that counting relies on the conscious mind. And the conscious mind is much slower than the unconscious mind. The unconscious mind can easily handle 60+ wpm with sufficient practice!

With that in mind, I took the book's advice and focused on acquiring instant character recognition. This means that when I heard a particular sound pattern, I instantly recognized it as a specific letter associated with that sound pattern. To avoid counting while copying, it is recommended to begin learning at a character speed of 20 to 25wpm. If you are *still* able to count while copying, go faster. For me, this meant starting the learning process at a character speed of 30wpm! At first, it seemed crazy fast!

The next step was to figure out whether the Farnsworth or Koch method was better suited for me. With the Farnsworth method, the character speed is kept above 20wpm, but extra spacing is introduced between the letters and words. The alternative is the Koch method, which starts the learning process with two characters at a standard 20wpm. Once two letters can be copied randomly with 90% proficiency, another letter is added. The process repeats until all the letters, numbers, and prosigns have been learned.

After trying both methods for a couple of days, I settled on the Farnsworth method. I felt too overwhelmed with the Koch method. So I started out at a speed of 30/10wpm -- a 30wpm character speed with an overall speed of 10wpm. Like the Koch method, I started out copying two letters send randomly. Once I scored 90%, I added another letter. It took several weeks before I was able to copy all 40 characters. The tricky part was switching to standard timing. I started at 15wpm and then worked on learning to copy faster.

Once I felt that I had some level of proficiency in copying Morse code, I started working on sending. What I learned in the book is that no matter if you learn to send with a straight key, bug, or a paddle, you need to focus on learning proper timing. Without proper timing, you will make it that much more difficult if not impossible for someone else to correctly copy your code even in the most ideal of band conditions. If you don't have someone to help you, use software to check your sending. I was spoiled and used the Begali CW Machine to check my timing.

To sum up, I dipped my toes into learning Morse code using [Morse Toad](#) (available for iOS). I did all of my initial learning using [Just Learn Morse Code](#). It is a Windows program, but it also works well on a Mac using [CrossOver](#). Then I used a variety of programs to assist in my practice. I used [Morse Runner](#) to practice participating in contest-like conditions. I used [RufzXP](#) to practice copying call signs. I used [ebook2cw](#) to convert short articles and paragraphs into Morse code. And I used [Morse Camp](#) to practice learning the sound pattern of entire words.

Below is a list of applications and resources that I have found during my Morse code journey. You might check them out and see if one or more of them fit your needs.

#### Software:

<a href="#">Just Learn Morse Code</a>	Windows
<a href="#">RufXP</a>	Windows
<a href="#">Morse Runner</a>	Windows
<a href="#">Morse Camp</a>	Web Browser
<a href="#">ebook2cw</a>	Windows, Mac, Linux



<a href="#">Morse Toad</a>	iOS
<a href="#">HamMorse</a>	iOS
<a href="#">Seiuchy</a>	Web Browser
<a href="#">Morse Trainer (G4FON)</a>	Windows
<a href="#">LCWO (Learn CW Online)</a>	Web Browser
<a href="#">SCPhillips Morse Code Trainer</a>	Web Browser
<a href="#">QRQ</a>	Linux, Windows, Mac
<a href="#">CW Forever</a>	Windows
<a href="#">AA9PW</a>	Web Browser, iOS
<a href="#">Ham Whisperer Morse Code Course</a>	Web Browser
<a href="#">KY8D Morse code Books and Scripts</a>	MP3 Player
<a href="#">Morse WW1 game</a>	Web Browser
<a href="#">IZ2UUF Morse Koch CW</a>	Android

### Other resources:

<a href="#">CW Academy</a>	Excellent hands-on help and advice. Classes are offered free three times a year.
<a href="#">Long Island (New York) CW Club</a>	Offers CW classes
<a href="#">The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy</a> by William Pierpont (N0HFF)	Free book with practical advice and history
<a href="#">Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy</a> by Carlo Cosoli (IKYGJ)	Free book with a recommendation on how to learn Morse code
<a href="#">Learning CW Code</a>	Facebook group. Great for connecting with others learning Morse code

### Morse code information and distractions

<a href="#">Dit Dit Podcast</a>	Popular podcast focused on Morse code
<a href="#">CQ Serenade</a>	A song produced sometime between 1965 and 1970 by Maurice Durieux, VE2QS
<a href="#">Morsum Magnificat : The Morse Magazine</a>	Archive for Morse code magazine that ran from 1986 to 2004
<a href="#">FCC to reinstate Morse Code test</a>	Delightful April Fool's Joke
<a href="#">High Speed Morse Code HSC VHSC SHSC EHSC</a>	Facebook group

Checkout the screenshots on the next page for the online practice sessions.



## Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Members – To Date - 2018

	Name	Callsign	email address
1	Matt Gaskill	KF5KOY	<a href="mailto:kf5koy@arrl.net">kf5koy@arrl.net</a>
2	Michael Bernier	KF5NPM	<a href="mailto:michael.Bernier@att.net">michael.Bernier@att.net</a>
3	Matthew Bernier	KF5TDL	<a href="mailto:michael.Bernier@att.net">michael.Bernier@att.net</a>
4	Rod Omundson	KG5WAZ	<a href="mailto:kg5waz@gmail.com">kg5waz@gmail.com</a>
5	Tammy Jaresh	KD5NIB	<a href="mailto:tjaresh46@hotmail.com">tjaresh46@hotmail.com</a>
6	Jonnie Jaresh	KD5NIC	<a href="mailto:tjaresh46@hotmail.com">tjaresh46@hotmail.com</a>
7	John Ramsey	KF5KHZ	<a href="mailto:jramsey@cableone.net">jramsey@cableone.net</a>
8	Rick Simmons	K5ECX	<a href="mailto:k5ecx@arrl.net">k5ecx@arrl.net</a>
9	Jessie Heiman	AC5OY	<a href="mailto:ac5oy@cableone.net">ac5oy@cableone.net</a>
10	Douglas Hotalen	KG5QPI	<a href="mailto:dhotalen@peoplepc.com">dhotalen@peoplepc.com</a>
11	Jim McGlynn	K5QOI	<a href="mailto:sailingtexoma@yahoo.com">sailingtexoma@yahoo.com</a>
12	Mark Pilkilton	KF5UZW	<a href="mailto:mpilkilton@gmail.com">mpilkilton@gmail.com</a>
13	Marvin Schiavone	KG5GMA	<a href="mailto:marvin818@msn.com">marvin818@msn.com</a>
14	James Frank	KW5CW	<a href="mailto:jimkw5cw@gmail.com">jimkw5cw@gmail.com</a>
15	Leland Sly	N5SLY	<a href="mailto:n5sly@arrl.net">n5sly@arrl.net</a>
16	Paul Caputo	K1PKZ	lifetime member
17	Brad McMillon	KE5UMJ	<a href="mailto:ke5umj@arrl.net">ke5umj@arrl.net</a>
18	Trevor Reed	KG5BFI	<a href="mailto:kg5bfi@gmail.com">kg5bfi@gmail.com</a>
19	Roy Reed	AF5VA	<a href="mailto:deadbugr@hotmail.com">deadbugr@hotmail.com</a>
20	Andrew Bentley	KG5SKM	<a href="mailto:kg5skm@cableone.net">kg5skm@cableone.net</a>
21	Shelia Sammons	KF5TDP	<a href="mailto:samshe1613@yahoo.com">samshe1613@yahoo.com</a>
22	Barbara Henderson	KF5TVC	<a href="mailto:thehandcarttrail@gmail.com">thehandcarttrail@gmail.com</a>
23	Bill Pierce	K5XBP	<a href="mailto:whpierce10@yahoo.com">whpierce10@yahoo.com</a>
24	Dora Caywood	KF5TDQ	<a href="mailto:happyhilltx@msn.com">happyhilltx@msn.com</a>
25	Ricky Jessen	KG5FDT	<a href="mailto:ricky.jessen3@gmail.com">ricky.jessen3@gmail.com</a>
26	James Bentley	KF5ZGC	<a href="mailto:jamesbentley@gmail.com">jamesbentley@gmail.com</a>
27	Wade Graves	KF5AUD	<a href="mailto:wade.graves@gmail.com">wade.graves@gmail.com</a>
28	Lynn R. Daniels	KG5UZZ	<a href="mailto:lynn6196274@sbcglobal.net">lynn6196274@sbcglobal.net</a>
29	Bob Sholl	W5DSA	<a href="mailto:w5dsa@aol.com">w5dsa@aol.com</a>
30	Patsy Sholl	W5PAT	<a href="mailto:w5dsa@aol.com">w5dsa@aol.com</a>
31	Nancy Pierce	W5ZMH	<a href="mailto:nepierce@verizon.net">nepierce@verizon.net</a>
32	Lynda Tuma	KF5JUO	<a href="mailto:lyndatuma@gmail.com">lyndatuma@gmail.com</a>
33	Ron Witherington	K5NKD	<a href="mailto:k5nkd@arrl.net">k5nkd@arrl.net</a>
34	James Mathis	K5IV	<a href="mailto:jlmathis@verizon.net">jlmathis@verizon.net</a>
35	Linda Mihay	W5ULY	<a href="mailto:bikrgran@gmail.com">bikrgran@gmail.com</a>
36	Nathan Benavidez	KG5CLX	<a href="mailto:kg5clx@gamil.com">kg5clx@gamil.com</a>
37	Mario Nunez	AI5W	<a href="mailto:marioalvareznn@gmail.com">marioalvareznn@gmail.com</a>
38	James Johnson	KG5SJY	<a href="mailto:jj9696@yahoo.com">jj9696@yahoo.com</a>
39	Kathy Ard-Blattner	KG5ZNZ	<a href="mailto:kathyardblattner@gmail.com">kathyardblattner@gmail.com</a>
40	Robert Blattner	KG5ZNY	<a href="mailto:kathyardblattner@gmail.com">kathyardblattner@gmail.com</a>
41	James Shiplet	KI5BMN	<a href="mailto:jshiplet@icloud.com">jshiplet@icloud.com</a>
*42	Thomas Kraemer	K5TPK	<a href="mailto:slapshot@hotmail.net">slapshot@hotmail.net</a> (new member)

**The following log sheet – complements of Lee – N5SLY**

If you are not using a computer for logging contacts at home, you can use this 'HF Log Sheet' immediately below to log contacts for your own use or for W5I special events.

STATION CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

## HF Log Sheet

PAGE \_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_.

[illegible]



# Swap Meet

(Disclaimer: This section is provided for hams to list items they wish to buy, sell or trade. The GCARC will not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of any descriptions, and will not guarantee any items function as described, and will not participate in any transactions. The individual buyer and seller are responsible for all discussions, negotiations and resolving of differences.)

To submit items to be listed, send the information in an email, to the GCARC Newsletter editor at [KW5CW@arrl.net](mailto:KW5CW@arrl.net). Photographs are encouraged. There is no charge for listings, and you do not need to be a member of the GCARC to participate.

## **FOR SALE AS IS: Assorted Electronics/Test Equipment**

The following items were donated to the GCARC and are in need of a new home. No set price per piece. Make an offer.

Heathkit Signal Generator

Square Wave Generator – Model 71

Broel & Kjoer Voltmeter

Sierra Electronic Corporation Carrier Frequency Voltmeter Model 104A

Polytechnic Research Heterodyne Frequency Meter – Type 104

**Note: these items are not tested and provided “as-is’ with No Refunds.**

Contact Lee Sly – N5SLY

Email: [lee.n5sly@gmail.com](mailto:lee.n5sly@gmail.com)

**NOTE:** Anyone that has anything new for sale or have an interest in buying, please send your info to [KW5CW@k5gcc.org](mailto:KW5CW@k5gcc.org) and it will be installed in the above list until the units is either bought or sold, or if you decide to remove it from the list.

**Note: The following list of requests needs to be updated. If you are listed in the following Helping Hams section, please send a note to the editor at [kw5cw@k5gcc.org](mailto:kw5cw@k5gcc.org) to confirm if you still need the listing. If you still want it listed, indicate when you would like to have the assistance so that it can be scheduled and completed. The 3 listings on this page are over 18 months old. Request dates for assistance need to be included in the listing or it cannot be listed in the future.**

## **Helping Hams**

The idea behind Helping Hams is simple – all hams need a little help sometimes, but they might not know who can help them. Our club has many talented members, with some better at certain jobs than others. What we hope to do here is match up hams needing help with other hams who have the skills to help them. Working together, we can all help our fellow hams and encourage them to continue pursuing their interests in this wonderful hobby.

The currently-requested needs are listed below. If you have a need, or know of a ham with a need, or if you or someone you know can help, contact our newsletter editor by sending an e-mail to [kw5cw@arrl.net](mailto:kw5cw@arrl.net). Be sure to include the following:

Who needs the help and how do we contact them.

- 1) What needs to be done.
- 2) When can someone come out to do the work.
- 3) Where is the location of the work that needs to be done.

**You don't have to be a member of the GCARC to ask for help or make an offer to help.** We're all in this together – that's what the hobby is all about!

### **Current Requests**

Bennie K5DIZ	Antenna install	Sherman
Sheila Sammons KF5TDP	Needs help with antenna repairs – damaged from falling tree limbs.	Sherman
Mike Bernier – KF5NPM	Needs help with replacing damaged HF Antennas and grounding.	Denison

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## Local Radio Nets

### Daily

#### **Texas Slow Net (CW only)**

Daily 7:45pm CT on 3.570 MHz

This is a training net for operators interested in building proficiency in CW and learning about handling Procedures for CW traffic nets.

### Weekly

#### **South Texas Section ARES Net (HF)**

Mondays 7:30pm CT on 3.873 MHz LSB

This is an information net open to South Texas (STX Section ARES members. Other Amateur stations are Welcome to listen in.

#### **Durant ARA Weekly Net**

Tuesdays 7:00pm CT on the 147.390+ (118.8PL) repeater.

No net on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month due to the DARA monthly meeting.

#### **Fannin County ARC Weekly Net**

Tuesdays 8:00pm CT on the 145.470- (100.0PL) repeater. (Replaces 147.200 repeater.) 444.525 links Into 145.470 full time.

#### **Ladies Net**

Thursdays 8:00pm CT on the 444.750+ (100.0 PL) repeater until further notice.

Net Control: Linda KE5YUC

#### **McKinney 6 meter AM Net**

Wednesdays 10:00pm CT on 50.400 Mhz.

#### **McKinney ARC Info Net**

Sundays 8:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater

### Semi-monthly

#### **Grayson County ARC information Net**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on the 444.750+ (100.0 PL) repeater until further notice.

147.000+ (100.0 PL) under maintenance. This is an informal information net and buy/sell swap net.

#### **Grayson County ARC ARES Net**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on 444.750+ (100.0 PL) repeater until further notice.

This is a directed information net used for training.

#### **RACES Command Net Check (HF)**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 8:00pm CT on 7.255 Mhz LSB

This is a RACES Command Net check for statewide RACES Command Net members ONLY. All other Amateur stations are welcome to listen, but DO NOT check in!

### Monthly

#### **North Texas Section ARES Net (HF)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 8:30pm CT on 3.860 Mhz LSB

This is an information net open to all ARES members in the ARRL North Texas (NTX Section.

#### **McKinney ARES Net**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 9:00pm CT on the 146.740- (110.9 PL) repeater.

## Area Repeaters

Sherman TX	444.750+ Mhz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT	Gainesville TX	147.340+ Mhz (100.0 PL)	WB5FHI
	147.280+ Mhz (107.2 PL)	W5COP	McKinney TX	146.740- Mhz (110.9 PL)	W5MRC
	147.000+ Mhz (100.0 PL)	W5RVT	Melissa TX	443.200+ Mhz (100.0 PL)	W5MRA
Allen TX	145.350- Mhz (100.0 PL)	N5GI	Paris TX	146.760- Mhz (203.5 PL)	WB5RDD
Bonham TX	147.200+ Mhz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC	Rosston TX	145.490- Mhz (85.4 PL)	WD5U
	145.470- Mhz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC	Van Alstyne TX	443.800+ Mhz (103.5 PL)	W5VAL
	443.750+ Mhz (100.0 PL)	K5FRC	Whitesboro TX	442.875+ Mhz (100.0 PL)	WC5GC
Denison TX	145.330- Mhz (100.0 PL)	W5DWH			
Durant OK	147.390+ Mhz (118.8 PL)	K5KIE			
	147.255+ Mhz (114.8 PL)	K5CGE			

**Note:** All Nets held on 147.00 will now be held on 444.750 + (PL tone 100.0 hz) until further notice.

**147.280+ (PL tone 107.2 hz) will be a backup**

Information nets for December 2018 will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> at 8PM.

## 2018 – 2019 Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Dues Form

**Instructions: Print this form, fill it out, and bring it with your dues payment to a club meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, please mail this form and payment to:**

**Grayson County Amateur Radio Club**

**P.O. Box 642  
Sherman, TX 75091**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Yourself:

_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign
_____ Street Address	_____ City	_____ State + ZIP
_____ Phone Number	_____ E-mail Address	_____ ARRL Y/N

Additional Family Members:

_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held
_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held
_____ First Name	_____ Last Name	_____ Call Sign	_____ Class Held

**Membership dues for 2019 can be accepted after the Christmas Party. Renewals received after February 1 will be considered LATE.**

Dues:

Individual Membership \$20.00/year

Family Membership \$30.00 year (2 or more hams/same family)

Associate (non-ham) Membership \$15.00/year

Cash or Checks accepted. No cash in the mail. Payable to GCARC.

**(NOTE: Sign-up Online. Go to [www.graysoncountyar.org](http://www.graysoncountyar.org))**





# K5GGC Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Apparel Order Form



## Tactical Shirt \$45

Mic loops on shoulders and front placket, dual pen pockets

**2X-4X** sizes + \$5



Prices plus shipping and all items have K5GGC Club Logo, your Call and first name embroidered

Polo Shirt\* sm to xl \$30  
Camp Shirt\* sm to xl \$36  
W Left pocket  
Caps \$17  
Jacket\* sm to xl \$45



	Men/ Ldy	Qty	Ext
First Name _____ ( as you want on clothing)			
Last _____			
Call _____			
Payment _____			
Make checks Payable to GCARC			
Polo Shirt* sm M L XL	\$30	_____	_____
Camp Shirt* sm M L XL	\$36	_____	_____
Caps	\$17	_____	_____
Jacket* sm M L XL	\$45	_____	_____
Tactical Shirt sm M L XL	\$45	_____	_____
*Shirts/jackets- (2x to 4x +\$5)			
Shipping \$2.00 per item		_____	_____
Total		_____	_____

Rev 02-12-18

	Men/ Ldy	Qty	Ext
First Name _____ ( as you want on clothing)			
Last _____			
Call _____			
Payment _____			
Make checks Payable to GCARC			
Polo Shirt* sm M L XL	\$30	_____	_____
Camp Shirt* sm M L XL	\$36	_____	_____
Caps	\$17	_____	_____
Jacket* sm M L XL	\$45	_____	_____
Tactical Shirt* sm M L XL	\$45	_____	_____
*Shirts/jackets- (2x to 4x +\$5)			
Shipping \$2.00 per item		_____	_____
Total		_____	_____

K5GGC Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Apparel Order -----Deliver Bottom portion to K5ECX by 03-16-18

Rev 02-12-18

	Men/ Ldy	Qty	Ext
First Name _____ ( as you want on clothing)			
Last _____			
Call _____			
Payment _____			
Make checks Payable to GCARC			
Polo Shirt* sm M L XL	\$30	_____	_____
Camp Shirt* sm ML XL	\$36	_____	_____
Caps	\$17	_____	_____
Jacket* sm M L XL	\$45	_____	_____
Tactical Shirt* sm M L XL	\$45	_____	_____
*Shirts/jackets- (2x to 4x +\$5)			
Shipping \$2.00 per item		_____	_____
Total		_____	_____

K5GGC Grayson County Amateur Radio Club Apparel Order -----Deliver Bottom portion to K5ECX by 03-16-18

Rev 02-12-18